

IN THE CLAIMS:

The text of all pending claims, (including withdrawn claims) is set forth below. Cancelled and not entered claims are indicated with claim number and status only. The claims as listed below show added text with underlining and deleted text with ~~strikethrough~~. The status of each claim is indicated with one of (original), (currently amended), (cancelled), (withdrawn), (new), (previously presented), or (not entered).

Please CANCEL without prejudice or disclaimer claims 1-17 the underlying PCT application and ADD new claims 18-36 in accordance with the following:

Claims 1-17 (cancelled)

18. (new) A method for providing a push-to-talk connection between at least two user terminals in a communications network, comprising

signaling information from a first terminal to set up a push-to-talk connection to a switching node;

establishing a usable link from the first terminal to the switching node; and

establishing a usable link from the switching node to at least one further terminal.

19. (new) A method as claimed in claim 18, wherein useable links established are speech connections.

20. (new) A method as claimed in claim 19, wherein the communications network is a mobile communications network.

21. (new) A method as claimed in claim 20, wherein at least one terminal is represented by a mobile terminal.

22. (new) A method as claimed in claim 21, wherein the information is signaled by means of USSD.

23. (new) A method as claimed in claim 22, wherein the usable link from the first terminal to the switching node is established before setting up the push-to-talk connection to the switching node.

24. (new) A method as claimed in claim 23, wherein the information is signaled by UUS.
25. (new) A method as claimed in claim 24, further comprising initiating ending of the useable link by one of the first terminal and the at least one other terminal.
26. (new) A method as claimed in claim 25, further comprising acknowledging receipt of the signaled information by the switching node.
27. (new) A method as claimed in claim 26, further comprising loading application software onto the first terminal prior to initiating the push-to-talk connection.
28. (new) A terminal for push-to-talk communication with at least one other user terminal in a communications network having a switching node, comprising:
 - means for signaling information to the switching node to set up a push-to-talk connection to the switching node;
 - means for establishing a usable link to the switching node; and
 - means for requesting a usable link from the switching node to at the least one other terminal.
29. (new) A terminal as claimed in claim 28, wherein said means for signaling information uses USSD or UUS.
30. (new) A terminal as claimed in claim 29, further comprising means for loading application software for initiating a push-to-talk connection.
31. (new) A switching node in a communications network for push-to-talk communication between at least two user terminals, comprising:
 - means for receiving signaling information from a first terminal to set up a push-to-talk connection; and
 - means for establishing usable links to the first terminal and at least one other terminal.
32. (new) A switching node as claimed in claim 31, further comprising means for acknowledging the signaling information.

33. (new) A switching node as claimed in claim 32, further comprising means for controlling the push-to-talk connection.

34. (new) A switching node as claimed in claim 33, wherein said means for controlling uses USSD or UUS.